

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05516 270550Z
ACTION EA-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1902
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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, KS
SUBJECT: ELECTION/INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT

1. PRESS SOURCE INFORMED EMBASSY OF RUMOR THAT PRESIDENT WILL BE ELECTED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR UNIFICATION (NCU) ON JULY 6. NOTE: YUSIN CONSTITUTION STATES ONLY THAT PRESIDENT MUST BE ELECTED AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO END OF PREVIOUS TERM (I.E., BY NOVEMBER 27, 1978) -- NO EARLIEST DATE IS SPECIFIED. RECENTLY ELECTED NCU WILL OFFICIALLY TAKE OFFICE ON JULY 1, 1978. THUS, ELECTION AS EARLY AS JULY 6 IS POSSIBLE.

2. CURRENT PRESIDENTIAL TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 26, 1978. IF INAUGURATION WERE TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THIS DATE, PRESIDENT WOULD LIKELY DECLARE END OF PRESENT TERM AND BEGINNING OF NEXT. NOTE: YUSIN CONSTITUTION DOES NOT SPECIFY NOR DOES IT RULE OUT SUCH A PROCEDURE. AUGUST 15 (30TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF ROK), AN OTHERWISE LIKELY DATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION, MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE,
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SINCE IT IS ALSO ANNIVERSARY OF MADAM PARK'S ASSASSINATION.

3. ELECTION LAW SPECIFIES NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS ARE TO BE HELD BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 12, 1978 AND FEBRUARY 19, 1979. DESPITE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS TO THE CONTRARY, RUMORS PERSIST THAT THESE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD EARLIER RATHER THAN LATER. NEXT REGULAR ASSEMBLY

SESSION IS SCHEDULED TO RUN FROM SEPTEMBER 20 UNTIL
LATE DECEMBER. UNDER "EARLY" SCENARIO, PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION AND INAUGURAL, APPROVAL OF YUCHONG-HOE AND
ELECTION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CAN ALL BE ACCOMPLISHED
PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 20 COMMENCEMENT OF ASSEMBLY SESSION.
STERN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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